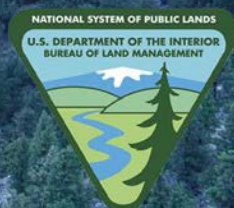


2014-2015

New Mexico Interagency Wilderness Planner



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS;
LOOKING FORWARD
TO THE NEXT 50 YEARS!



Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties • 37,877 acres • Designated in 1978

Photo by JD Thompson



SANDIA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

"The farther one gets into the wilderness, the greater is the attraction of its lonely freedom." Theodore Roosevelt

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 El Malpais Recommended Wilderness - 1990 (NPS)	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Earth Science Week (October 12-18)	13 Columbus Day	14	15 National Fossil Day	16	17	18
19	20 Bandelier Wilderness - 1976 (NPS)	21 Federal Land Policy & Management Act of 1976: Mathers; El Malpais; and Guadalupe Canyon WSA - 1976 (BLM)	22	23 Salt Creek Wilderness - 1970 (FWS) Clinton P. Anderson Born (1895)	24	25 Make a Difference Day
26 Ojito Wilderness - 2005 (BLM)	27 Theodore Roosevelt Born (1858)	28	29	30 Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness - 1984 (BLM)	31	1



Sandia Mountain Wilderness

The Wilderness Area lies primarily on the western slope of the Sandia Mountains, which tower over Albuquerque. Spruce and fir dominate the high country, with stands of mixed conifers just below. Many raptors migrate through these mountains in spring and fall, sharing the area with mule deer and black bears.



Aldo Leopold Wilderness



Socorro County • 5,440 acres • Designated in 1975

CHUPADERA PEAK WILDERNESS

Photo by Daniel Perry, FWS

"In wildness is the preservation of the world." Henry David Thoreau

NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Savings Time Ends						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Carlsbad Caverns Wilderness - 1978 (NPS)	Veterans Day				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
49 WSAs - 1980 (BLM)				Thanksgiving		



Chupadera Peak Wilderness

In the heart of this unit, is an area of rugged Chihuahuan Desert habitat. Here, outcroppings of rich brown, almost reddish, cliff-like formations, some more than 100 feet high, form what is probably the most spectacular

characteristic within this area. A four and a half mile trail takes hikers to the top of Chupadera Mountain for breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding Middle Río Grande Valley.



Cibola County • 61,600 acres • Designated in 1987

Photo by Bob Wick, BLM



CEBOLLA WILDERNESS

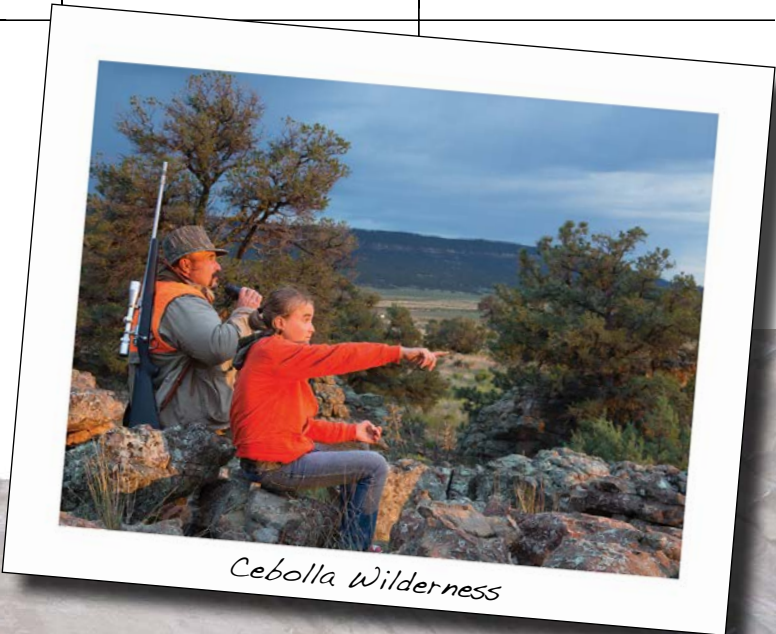
"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man." Stewart Udall

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
					International Volunteer Day	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				International Mountain Day		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Aldo Leopold; Apache Kid; Blue Range; Capitan Mountains; Cruces Basin; Dome; Latir Peak; Withington Wilderness; and Bunk Robinson; Columbine Hondo; Guadalupe Escarpment; Hell Hole; Lower San Francisco; Whitmire WSA - 1980 (USFS)	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Winter Solstice				Christmas		
28	29	30	31	1		
			Chain of Craters WSA; and West Malpais and Cebolla Wilderness - 1987 (BLM)	New Year's Day		

Cebolla Wilderness

The Cebolla Wilderness is made up of sandstone mesas, canyons, and grassy valleys. Juniper and piñon dominate, and ponderosa pine is found on north facing slopes. The Cebolla Wilderness is rich in prehistoric archaeological sites, petroglyphs, and historic homesteads. La Ventana Natural Arch, a dramatic arch sculpted through wind and water erosion, is easily visible from the boundary of the Wilderness.





Los Alamos, Sandoval, and Santa Fe Counties • 23,267 acres • Designated in 1976

Photo by Dale Coker, NPS



BANDELIER WILDERNESS

"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity..." John Muir

JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				New Year's Day		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Aldo Leopold Born (1887)						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
				Edward Abbey Born (1927)		Stewart Udall Born (1920)



Bandelier Wilderness

More than 70 percent of Bandelier National Monument has been designated as wilderness. Visitors can enjoy over 70 miles of backcountry trails through the Wilderness, encountering challenging terrain, sweeping mesa tops, lush canyons, isolated archaeological sites, diverse volcanic geology, and a wide

variety of wildlife. With over one mile of elevation change, piñon-juniper woodlands dominate in the southern areas, transitioning through ponderosa pine savannahs and forests, finally reaching mixed conifer forests at the highest elevation.



Sandoval County • 11,183 acres • Designated in 2005

BLM Photo Courtesy of Steven W. Martin Photography



OJITO WILDERNESS

"The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future." Aldo Leopold

FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5		7

U.S. Forest Service
Established (1905)

Presidents' Day

Wallace Stegner Born (1909)

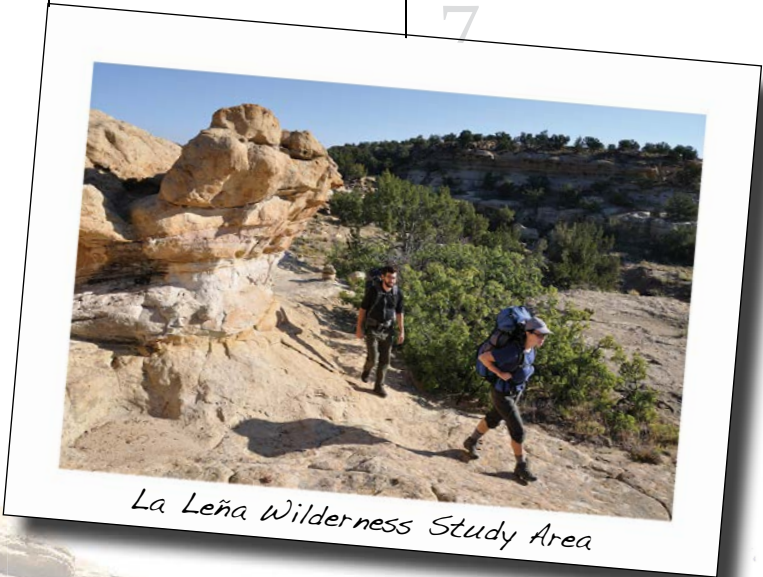
Chama River Canyon; Manzano
Mountain; and Sandia Mountain
Wilderness - 1978 (USFS)

Howard Zahniser Born (1906)



Ojito Wilderness

The Ojito Wilderness is a desert landscape of multi-colored shale, sandstone, and limestone formed into steep-sided mesas and rocky terraces. Piñon and juniper are dotted throughout the Wilderness, and rare stands of ponderosa pine can be found tucked into shady recesses.





Eddy County • 33,125 acres • Designated in 1978

CARLSBAD CAVERNS WILDERNESS

Photo by Kristin Dorman-Johnson, NPS

"We must not only protect the country side and save it from destruction, we must restore what has been destroyed...Once man can no longer walk with beauty or wonder at nature, his spirit will wither and his sustenance be wasted."
President Lyndon Johnson

MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings Time Begins						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					Spring Equinox	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
World Water Day						
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Sabinoso Wilderness - 2009 (BLM)					



Carlsbad Caverns Wilderness
The landscape of Carlsbad Caverns National Park consists of rugged and dramatic scenery with steep, rocky ridges and craggy canyons. Almost three quarters of the Park is designated as wilderness. The Park has about 20 miles of hiking trails in wilderness. The area is home to a high level of biodiversity, with hundreds of bird species and at least 16 species of bats.



Qito Wilderness



Taos County • 19,661 acres • Designated in 1964

Photo Courtesy of Carson National Forest



WHEELER PEAK WILDERNESS

"The wilderness that has come to us from the eternity of the past we have the boldness to project into the eternity of the future." Howard Zahniser

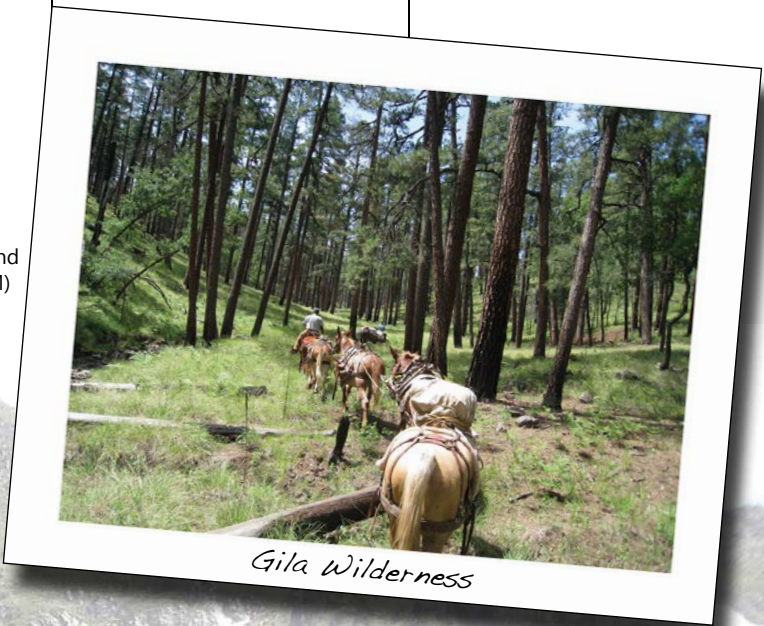
APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
National Volunteer Week (April 12-18)					Global Youth Service Day (April 17-19)	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		John Muir Born (1838)	Earth Day		Arbor Day	
26	27	28	29	30		
				Apache Box; Organ Needles; and Peña Blanca WSA - 1993 (BLM)		



Wheeler Peak Wilderness

At 13,161 feet, Wheeler Peak stands higher than any other point in New Mexico. Alpine tundra, rare in the American Southwest, covers the Peak. Visitors to the area might see elk and mule deer, golden eagles, songbirds, marmots, and pikas. Mountain lions, black bears, and big horn sheep also call this area home.



Gila Wilderness



Chaves County • 9,621 acres • Designated in 1970

Photo by James Sippel



SALT CREEK WILDERNESS

"The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for that future." Gifford Pinchot

MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
						International Migratory Bird Day
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Endangered Species Day	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					International Day for Biological Diversity	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Walt Whitman Born (1819)	Memorial Day		Rachel Carson Born (1907)			



Salt Creek Wilderness

A birders’ paradise, ducks, geese, cranes, countless white pelicans, and snowy egrets call this special place home. Visitors might also spy quail, roadrunners, pheasant, desert cottontail rabbits, black-tailed jackrabbits,

mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, and badgers. This is an area of native grasslands, sand dunes, and brushy bottomlands. The northern boundary is distinguished by its red-rimmed plateau.



Taos County • 20,000 acres • Designated in 1980

Photo by James Sippel



LATIR PEAK WILDERNESS

"The idea of Wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders." Edward Abbey

JUNE 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3 <small>Administrative Protection of the Gila Wilderness - 1924 (USFS)</small>	4 <small>Organic Act (1897)</small>	5 <small>World Environment Day</small>	6 <small>National Fishing & Boating Week (June 6-14); and National Trails Day</small>
7	8 <small>World Oceans Day</small>	9	10	11	12	13 <small>National Get Outdoors Day</small>
14 <small>Flag Day</small>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <small>Summer Solstice</small>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <small>Fish and Wildlife Service Established (1940)</small>	1	2		



Latir Peak Wilderness

This remote area has deep forest cover interrupted only by pleasant meadows and alpine tundra. It showcases the very finest of New Mexico’s high country. An abundance of southern Rocky Mountain wildlife takes advantage of the region’s riches, including mule deer, black bears, badgers, beavers, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, mountain lions, marmots, and martens.





San Juan County • 41,170 acres • Designated in 1984

Photo by Bob Wick, BLM

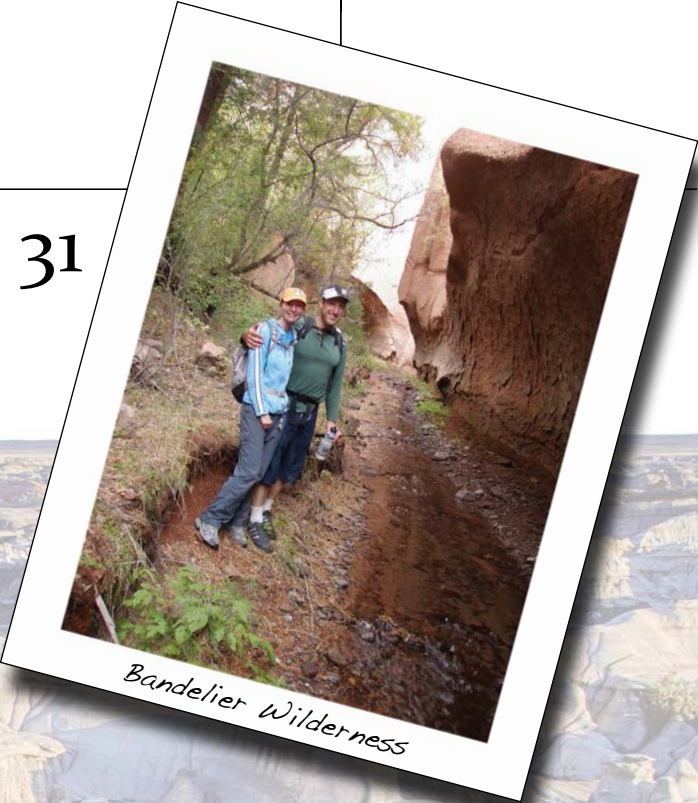


BISTI/DE-NA-ZIN WILDERNESS

"My friend was wrong who said that this country was so old it does not matter what we do here. What we do anywhere matters, but especially here. It matters very much. Mesas and mountains, rivers and trees, winds and rains are as sensitive to the action and thoughts of humans as we are to their forces." Ignacio Aguilar, Elder, San Ildefonso Pueblo

JULY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
						Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Henry David Thoreau Born (1817)	Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918)			Bureau of Land Management Established (1946)		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness

At the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness, time and natural elements have etched a fantasy world of strange rock formations made of interbedded sandstone, shale, mudstone, coal, and silt. The weathering of the sandstone forms hoodoos - weathered rock pinnacles, spires, cap rocks, and other unusual forms. These same landforms are the source of many important fossil discoveries. Hiking, backpacking, photography, and horse packing are among the most popular uses.





Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, and Taos Counties • 223,333 acres • Designated in 1964

Photo Courtesy of Santa Fe National Forest



PECOS WILDERNESS

"Wilderness is an anchor to the windward. Knowing it is there, we can also know that we are still a rich nation, tending our resources as we should—not a people in despair searching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of lumber, a barrel of oil, a blade of grass, or a tank of water." Former New Mexico Senator Clinton P. Anderson

AUGUST 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						National Water Quality Month
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Smokey Bear's Birthday		Gifford Pinchot Born (1865)				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	National Park Service Established (1916)		President Lyndon Johnson Born (1908)		



Pecos Wilderness

The scenery in this area varies from 100-foot waterfalls and crumbled talus slopes to dramatic rock cliffs, towering peaks, and wildflower meadows. Engelmann spruce, corkbark fir, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, white fir,

limber pine, bristlecone pine, and aspen are the predominant timber species. Equally diverse is the wildlife, including elk, deer, bear, turkey, and one of America's healthiest herds of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep.



Socorro County • 19,859 acres • Designated in 1975

Photo by Aaron D. Drew, FWS



LITTLE SAN PASQUAL WILDERNESS

"If we are to have broad-thinking men and women of high mentality, of good physique and with a true perspective on life, we must allow our populace a communion with nature in areas of more or less wilderness condition." Arthur Carhart

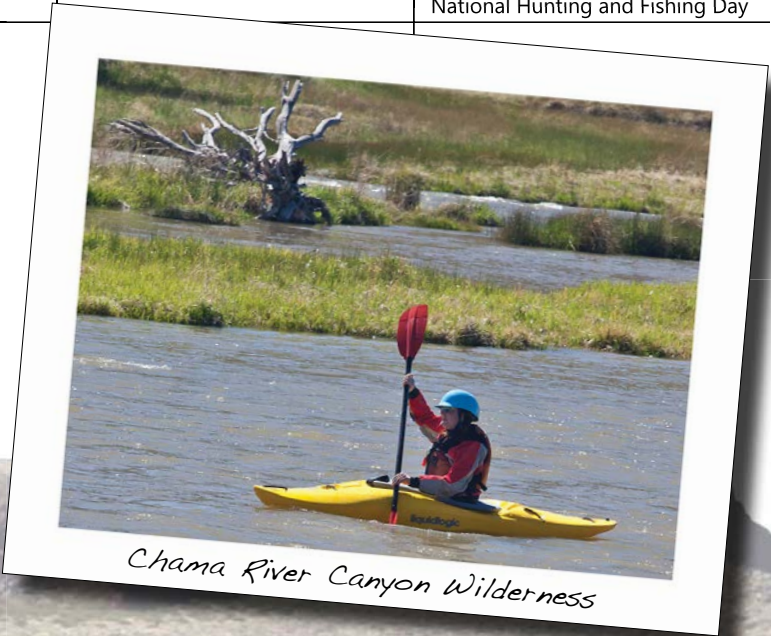
SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3 Wilderness Act of 1964: Gila; Pecos; San Pedro Parks; Wheeler Peak; and White Mountain Wilderness - 1964 (USFS) Chupadera Peak; Indian Wells; and Little San Pasqual Wilderness – 1975 (FWS)	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8 National Wilderness Month	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Arthur Carhart Born (1892)	19
20	21	22	23 Autumn Equinox	24	25	26 Canyons WSA - 2001 (BLM) National Public Lands Day; and National Hunting and Fishing Day
27	28	29	30	1		



Little San Pasqual Wilderness

Part of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, the Little San Pasqual Wilderness covers 19,859 acres just east of the Río Grande. It offers distinctive terrains of gently rolling desert sharpening to a peak at Little San Pasqual Mountain.



Chama River Canyon Wilderness



Catron, Grant, and Sierra Counties • 558,014 acres • Designated in 1964

GILA WILDERNESS

Photo by Mason Ryan

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter." Rachel Carson

OCTOBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 El Malpais Recommended Wilderness - 1990 (NPS)	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Earth Science Week (October 11-17)	12 Columbus Day	13	14 National Fossil Day	15	16	17
18	19	20 Bandelier Wilderness - 1976 (NPS)	21 Federal Land Policy & Management Act of 1976: Mathers; El Malpais; and Guadalupe Canyon WSA - 1976 (BLM)	22	23 Salt Creek Wilderness - 1970 (FWS) Clinton P. Anderson Born (1895)	24 Make a Difference Day
25	26 Ojito Wilderness - 2005 (BLM)	27 Theodore Roosevelt Born (1858)	28	29	30 Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness - 1984 (BLM)	31



Gila Wilderness

On June 3, 1924, the Gila became the world’s first area set apart to protect wilderness, and a model for the development of the Wilderness Act of 1964. In 1964, the Gila and 53 other areas became the first members of the National Wilderness Preservation System. High mesas, rolling hills, and

deep canyons distinguish the eastern portions; the west and southwest portions boast high mountains; and sheer cliffs outline the Gila River. The area includes piñon and juniper woodland, grasslands, and ponderosa pine forests. It is a destination for backpackers, horse packers, and hunters.



Cibola County • 97,428 acres • Recommended in 1990

EL MALPAIS RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

Photo by David Hays, NPS

"Without enough wilderness America will change. Democracy, with its myriad personalities and increasing sophistication, must be fibred and vitalized by regular contact with outdoor growths — animals, trees, sun warmth and free skies — or it will dwindle and pale." Walt Whitman

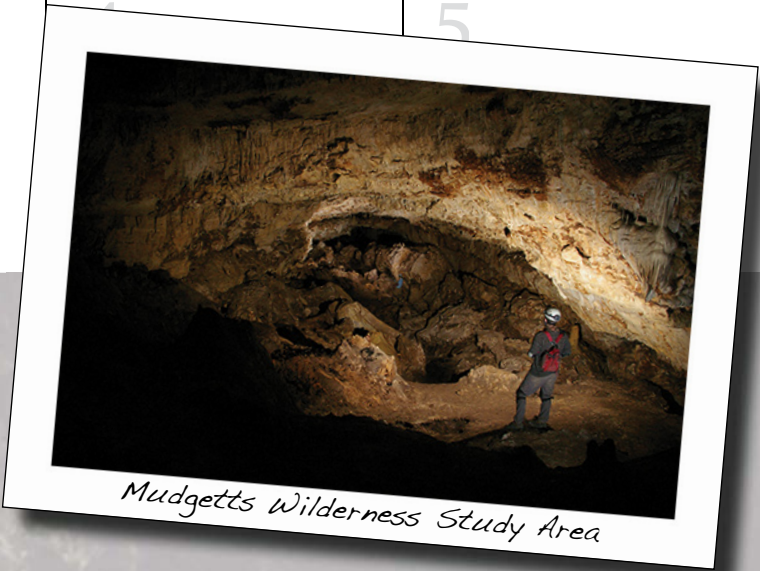
NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Savings Time Ends						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Carlsbad Caverns Wilderness - 1978 (NPS)	Veterans Day			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Thanksgiving		
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	49 WSAs - 1980 (BLM)					



El Malpais Recommended Wilderness

The primeval black basalt terrain of El Malpais was created by volcanic forces over the past million years where molten lava spread out over the high desert. Visitors to the area will see cinder cones, shield volcanoes, caves, collapses, trenches, ice caves, and a lava tube cave system extending at least 17 miles. The area showcases volcanic geology and unique habitats such as pygmy pine forests, short-grass prairies, and some of the oldest Douglas fir trees on the planet.





Doña Ana County • 7,283 acres • Established in 1980

Photo by Lisa Phillips, BLM



ORGAN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

"We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope." Wallace Stegner

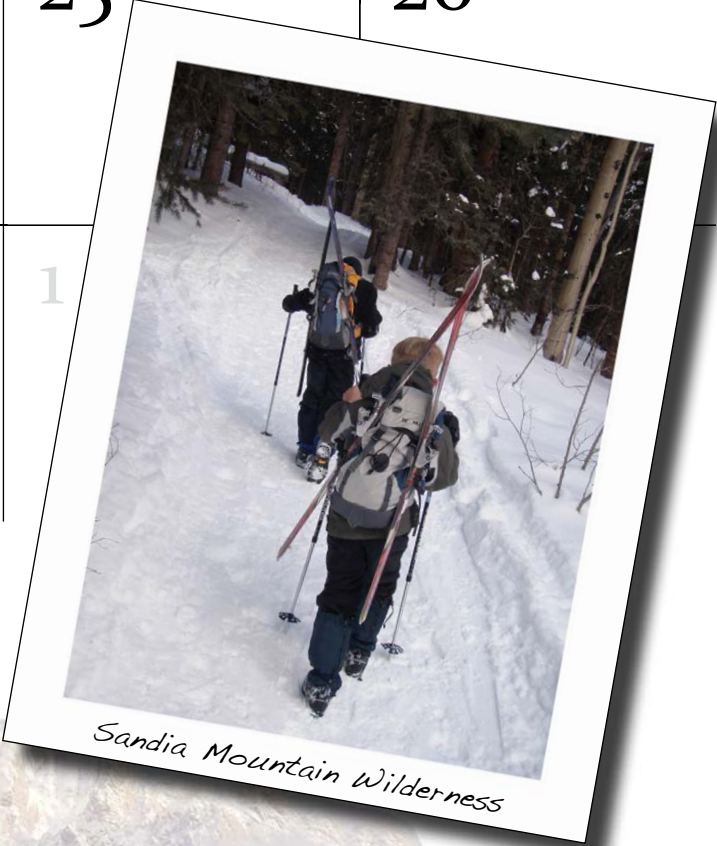
DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5 <div>International Volunteer Day</div>
6	7	8	9	10	11 <div>International Mountain Day</div>	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 <div>Aldo Leopold; Apache Kid; Blue Range; Capitan Mountains; Cruces Basin; Dome; Latir Peak; Withington Wilderness; and Bunk Robinson; Columbine Hondo; Guadalupe Escarpment; Hell Hole; Lower San Francisco; Whitmire WSA - 1980 (USFS)</div>
20	21	22 <div>Winter Solstice</div>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 <div>Chain of Craters WSA; and West Malpais and Cebolla Wilderness - 1987 (BLM)</div>	1	



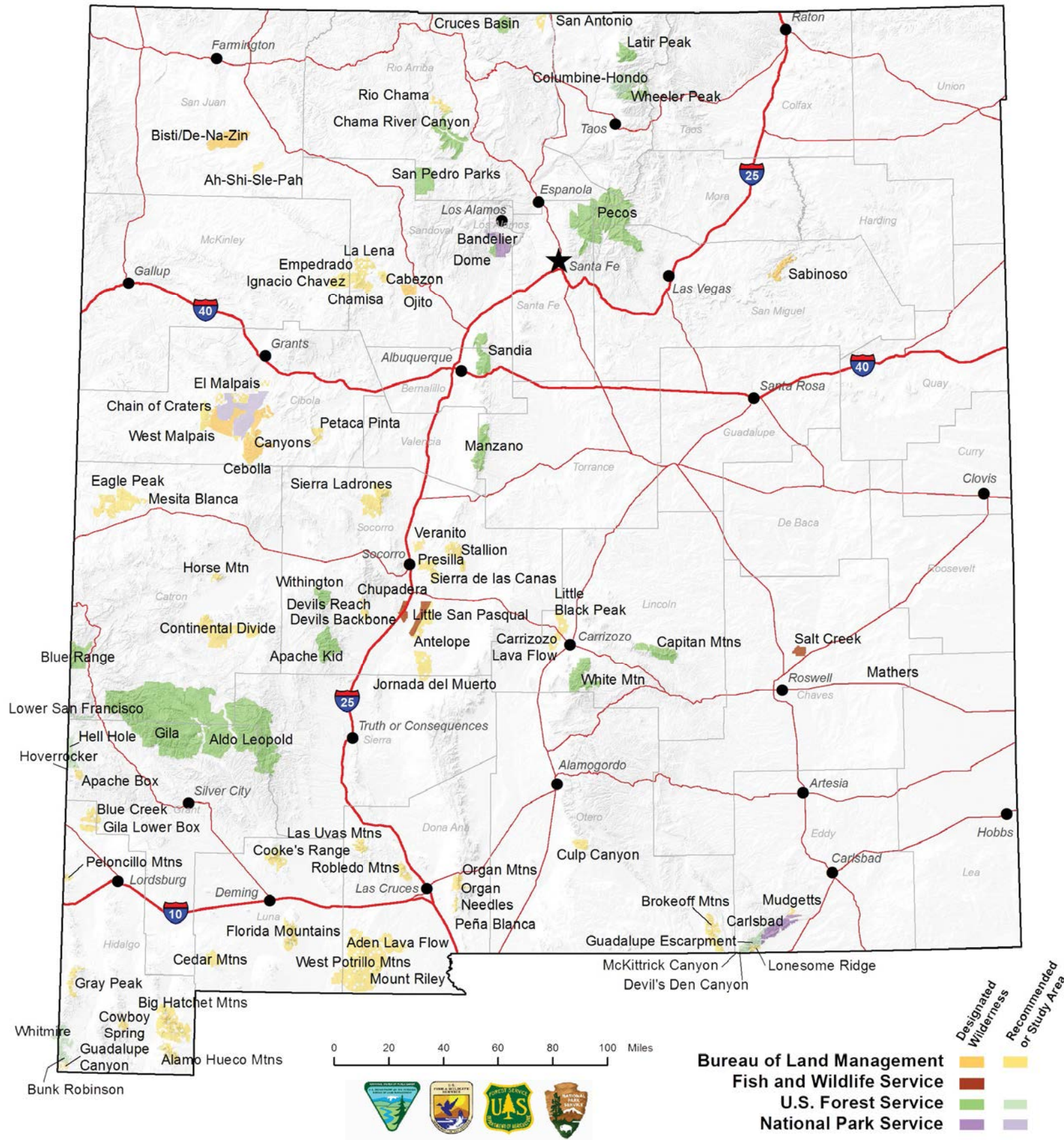
Organ Mountains Wilderness Study Area

The Organ Mountains are so named because of the steep, needle-like spires that resemble the pipes of an organ. Alligator juniper, gray oak, and mountain mahogany, are dominant here, but in the upper elevations, stands of ponderosa pine may be found. Seasonal springs and streams, and a few perennial springs support riparian habitats.



Sandia Mountain Wilderness

New Mexico Wilderness Status



Wild places, it has been said, are what shaped the American identity of self-reliance, fortitude, hard work, and rugged independence. As Americans interacted with the wild places of North America, they were shaped by the land they inhabited, while also changing the land with their activity.

As more people arrived and technology developed, the changed lands were becoming dominant, and the wild lands rare. Would Americans completely eliminate these wild places? In response to this concern, a uniquely American idea was born: to purposefully preserve some of the last remaining wild places as wilderness.

In 1964, the Wilderness Act was passed by Congress "in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions." Thus, was born the National Wilderness Preservation System, assuring present and future generations can experience the wild nature that was so formative and fundamental to America's early identity.

With the Wilderness Act, Congress designated 54 areas and designed a process to expand the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service were directed by Congress to review Federal lands for the presence of wilderness characteristics. Only Congress may designate additional wilderness, and since 1964, Congress has increased the number of designated areas to 758.

The Wilderness Act describes wilderness as: **untrammeled** (free from human manipulation); **undeveloped** (generally without structures and motorized or mechanized equipment); **natural** (ecological systems substantially unaffected by modern civilization); having outstanding opportunities for **solitude** or **primitive** and **unconfined** recreation; and sometimes having other **unique values**.

This planner is but a brief introduction to New Mexico's 25 wilderness areas, and 64 other areas that have been identified as having potential for future designation. The interagency community of New Mexico invites you to explore our many spectacular areas that have been preserved under the Wilderness Act.



For more information about the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, please visit: www.wilderness50th.org

Front Cover Photo: Rio Chama Wilderness Study Area (WSA) • Rio Arriba County • 12,671 acres • Established in 1980 • Photo by Bob Wick, BLM

Along the Rio Chama, is an example of a past wilderness designation and the potential for future designation. The Chama River Canyon Wilderness, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, was designated by Congress in 1978. The adjacent BLM Rio Chama WSA is managed so as not to impair its suitability for future preservation as wilderness.